AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing below of the claims presents in amended form claims 1 through 14 that were presented in the international phase of the corresponding PCT application. The following claims replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for supporting vertically hanging electrical resistance elements ~~(1)~~ for heating furnaces or ovens in industrial ~~operation~~ operations, wherein each resistance element ~~comprises~~ includes a plurality of current-conducting legs ~~(6)~~ that ~~run downwards and upwards a number of times, wherein the element includes along its length a number of~~ extend upwardly and downwardly, said method comprising the steps of: providing a plurality of ceramic support discs ~~(8)~~ that ~~are provided with~~ each include a plurality of through-penetrating holes through which respective resistance element legs extend, wherein ~~the~~ upper ~~part~~ parts of ~~said element merges~~ at least two resistance element legs merge with terminals ~~(5a, 5b)~~ that are connected to a source of electric current ~~, and wherein said element is supported~~ ; vertically supporting the resistance elements by at least one ~~of the~~ uppermost ~~discs, characterised in that the~~ ceramic support disc; positioning an uppermost ceramic support disc ~~or the uppermost ceramic discs (10, 11) supporting said element is/are placed in the~~ laterally adjacent insulation ~~(3) of the~~ at a furnace roof ~~(2)~~ and above ~~the under side (15)~~ an underside of ~~said~~ the roof; and ~~in that~~

interconnecting legs ~~(6)~~ of the resistance element ~~are caused to be short circuited~~ at a location ~~slightly or somewhat beneath~~ below the underside ~~(15)~~ of ~~said~~ the roof with ~~the aid of short circuiting~~ conductive connecting plates ~~(7)~~.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A method ~~according to Claim~~ in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterised by~~ including the step of forming the legs ~~(6)~~ from FeCrAl.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A method ~~according to Claim~~ in accordance with claim 1 ~~or 2, characterised by~~ , including the step of forming the at least one ceramic ~~discs~~ ~~(8, 10, 11)~~ support disc from at least one of Al_2O_3, SiO_2, ~~or~~ and mixtures thereof.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A method ~~according to Claim~~ in accordance with claim 3, ~~characterised by placing the supportive~~ including the step of positioning ceramic support discs ~~(10, 11)~~ at two levels.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A method ~~according to any one of the preceding Claims, characterised by placing the supportive~~ in accordance with claim 1, including the step of positioning ceramic support discs ~~(10, 11)~~ above ~~the~~ an upper side of the furnace roof ~~(2)~~.

Claim 6 (currently amended): An arrangement for supporting vertically hanging electrical resistance elements ~~(1)~~ for heating furnaces or ovens in industrial ~~operation~~ operations, wherein each resistance element ~~comprises~~ includes a plurality of current-conducting legs ~~(6)~~ that ~~run downwards and upwards a number of times, wherein the~~ extend upwardly and downwardly, said arrangement comprising: a plurality of resistance element ~~(1) includes along its length~~ legs; a ~~number~~ plurality of ceramic support discs ~~(8)~~ that ~~are provided with~~ each include a plurality of through-penetrating holes through which respective resistance element legs extend, wherein ~~the~~ upper ~~part~~ parts of ~~said element merges~~ at least two resistance element legs merge with terminals ~~(5a, 5b)~~ that are connected to a source of electric current ~~, and wherein said element is supported by~~ ; at least one ~~of the~~ uppermost of said ceramic support discs ~~, characterised in that the uppermost ceramic disc or the uppermost ceramic discs (10, 11) supporting said element is/are placed in the~~ is positioned laterally adjacent insulation ~~(3) of the roof of the~~ at a furnace ~~(2)~~ roof and above ~~the under side (15)~~ an underside of ~~said~~ the roof; and ~~in that relevant~~ wherein legs ~~(6)~~ of the resistance element are ~~caused to be short circuited~~ interconnected at a location ~~slightly or somewhat beneath~~ below the underside ~~(15)~~ of ~~said~~ the roof with ~~the aid of short circuiting~~ conductive connecting plates ~~(7)~~.

Claim 7 (currently amended): An arrangement ~~according to Claim~~ in accordance with claim 6, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the legs ~~(6)~~ are ~~comprised of~~ formed from FeCrAl.

Claim 8 (currently amended): An arrangement ~~according to Claim~~ in accordance with claim 6 ~~or 7, characterised in that~~ , wherein the ceramic support discs ~~(8, 10, 11)~~ are ~~comprised of~~ formed from one of Al_2O_3, SiO_2, ~~or~~ and mixtures thereof.

Claim 9 (currently amended): An arrangement ~~according to Claim~~ in accordance with claim 6, ~~7 or 8, characterised in that the supportive~~ wherein ceramic support discs ~~(10, 11)~~ are ~~situated~~ positioned at two levels.

Claim 10 (currently amended): An arrangement ~~according to Claim~~ in accordance with claim 6, ~~7, 8 or 9, characterised in that the supportive~~ wherein the at least one ceramic ~~discs (10, 11) are~~ support disc is located above ~~the~~ an upper side of the furnace roof ~~(2)~~.